

life, liberty and prosperity throughout the world.

To Megan Abbott, Austin Durr, Laura Pegram, Bruce Taylor and Scott Tuttle, I want to express my sincere thanks for your service in the Peace Corps.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF RAYMOND E. DOBRATZ, JR.

#### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the passing of a great citizen and member of the community in eastern Connecticut. Raymond E. Dobratz, Jr. of Old Saybrook, a beloved son and brother, devoted husband and grandfather, died tragically while working on the site of the Kleen Energy Plant in Middletown on February 7, 2010.

Ray was a masterful tradesman and a 40-year member of the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 777 who spent his life giving back to the people around him. He served his country with honor in the Army National Guard and also served a member of the Old Saybrook Police for 13 years. He had an incredible sense of what it meant to be a citizen and he spent his life putting that into practice.

Ray's love for his wife, 3 sons, and 5 grandchildren is what really defined him. Two of Ray's sons grew up shadowing their father as a pipefitter. They admired him greatly and were thrilled when they got to spend time with him on the football field. Ray co-founded the Old Saybrook Youth Football Athletic League as a coach in the 1980s and it still exists today. He loved sports and often played football, soccer, and baseball with his friends and family when he had the time. He was a fixture in the community and will be deeply missed.

Ray had a seemingly endless amount of energy to give to his country, town and family. He was a model citizen and family man. I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss of Raymond E. Dobratz, Jr.

#### RECOGNIZING CURT TOMASEVICZ OF SHELBY, NEBRASKA

#### HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a rare achievement, the pursuit of which took years of hard work and dedication. On February 27, 2010, Curt Tomasevicz became the first born and raised Nebraskan to win a gold medal at the Winter Olympics. The gold medal ended a 62-year drought for the United States in the 4-man bobsled event.

Curt Tomasevicz was born and raised in Shelby, Nebraska. He attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, where he walked on to play football for the Cornhuskers and was named to the Academic All Big XII team in 2002. He began his bobsledding career in 2004, just two years prior to being named to the United States 4-man bobsled team.

Curt made his first appearance in the 2006 Olympics, when he and his team brought home sixth place. With this first taste of competing on the world stage, he used his Nebraskan spirit and work ethic to strive for excellence in the 2010 games. The United States bobsled team, known as the "Night Train," set records as they accumulated a time of 3 minutes, 24.46 seconds which proved to be nearly four-tenths faster than second place.

He has made all of Nebraska and America proud and is an inspiration to younger generations. His intensity, work ethic, and service to the country was on display for all the world to see during the Winter Olympics. His efforts and accomplishments are remarkable and I thank him for his dedication to the country and excellent example to our State.

#### THE FALL OF THE ALAMO

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, throughout U.S. history, individuals selflessly and courageously have taken a stand for freedom and liberty, many times against great odds.

March 6, 1836 was one of those times. This date is what most Americans know as the day the Alamo fell against Mexico General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna and his Mexican troops. The siege against the Texian Army lasted 13 days. The battle began on February 23rd when Santa Anna and his army arrived at the Alamo and caught the Texian Army by surprise. On the second day of the siege, Texian Alamo Commander William Barret Travis called for reinforcements, bravely stating: "I shall never surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism, and everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid with all dispatch . . . Victory or Death."

On the eighth day of the 13-day siege, 32 additional men from Gonzales arrived ready to fight for Texas. Legend has it that Commander William B. Travis drew a line on the ground asking the few men present to step over if they were willing to stay and fight, to defend the Alamo for the sake of Texas. All present stepped over, except one.

There were 189 defenders, including famous knife fighter Jim Bowie and former Tennessee congressman Davy Crockett. All of the defenders were volunteers and originated from all over the globe. Eleven of the defenders were born in Texas, 131 of the defenders were born in some 23 various states in America, 29 of the defenders were born abroad, mostly in Europe, one defender was a freed slave, and there are 17 defenders of which their birthplace has not been identified.

All of the Alamo defenders stood their ground against the overwhelming odds. Some estimate that Santa Anna's army consisted of 6,000 troops. At the end of the day on March 6, 1836, after the smoke cleared, all 189 defenders gave their lives for Texas. The enemy casualties were enormous. As Travis said, "Victory will cost the enemy more than defeat."

This historic battle resulted in General Sam Houston having enough time to gather a

strong army of men to avenge Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto 46 days later. On April 21st Sam Houston led an army of 800 volunteers and angry Texans to defeat Santa Anna and his 1,500 strong Mexican army, most of whom were the same invaders that were at the Alamo. This victory played an important role in the Texas Revolution.

Texas was an independent nation for 9 years following the Battles of the Alamo and San Jacinto. The freedom the Texans enjoyed during those years would not have occurred without the thousands of selfless volunteers who risked and gave their lives to protect the liberties they believed every person should retain.

Today the Alamo remains a great treasure to the story of Texas and represents the steadfast, unrelenting character of the American spirit. The fight for freedom that these heroic Alamo defenders displayed is a testament of living boldly and courageously for the cause of liberty. We honor and thank these volunteers for their role in defending and fighting for Liberty and for Texas.

And that's just the way it is.

#### ALAMO DEFENDERS

1. Abamillo, Juan, TX, 2. Allen, Robert, VA, 3. Andross, Miles DeForrest, VT, 4. Autry, Micajah, NC, 5. Badillo, Juan A., TX, 6. Bailey, Peter James III, KY, 7. Baker, Isaac G., AR, 8. Baker, William Charles M., MO, 9. Ballentine, John J., PA, 10. Ballantine, Richard W., Scotland, 11. Baugh, John J., VA, 12. Bayliss, Joseph, TN, 13. Blair, John, TN, 14. Blair, Samuel, TN, 15. Blazeby, William, England, 16. Bonham, James Butler, SC, 17. Bourne, Daniel, England, 18. Bowie, James, KY, 19. Bowman, Jesse B., TN, 20. Brown, George, England, 21. Brown, James, PA, 22. Brown, Robert, unknown, 23. Buchanan, James, AL, 24. Burns, Samuel E., Ireland, and 25. Butler, George, D., MO.

26. Cain, John, PA, 27. Campbell, Robert, TN, 28. Carey, William R., VA, 29. Clark, Charles Henry, MO, 30. Clark, M.B., MS, 31. Cloud, Daniel William, KY, 32. Cochran, Robert E., NH, 33. Cottle, George Washington, MO, 34. Courtman, Henry, Germany, 35. Crawford, Lemuel, SC, 36. Crockett, David, TN, 37. Crossman, Robert, PA, 38. Cummings, David P., PA, 39. Cunningham, Robert, NY, 40. Darst, Jacob C., KY, 41. Davis, John, KY, 42. Day, Freeman H.K., unknown, 43. Day, Jerry C., MO, 44. Daymon, Squire, TN, 45. Dearduff, William, TN, 46. Dennison, Stephen, England or Ireland, 47. Despallier, Charles, LA, 48. Dewart, Lewis, NY, 49. Dickinson, Almeron, TN, and 50. Dillard, John Henry, TN.

51. Dimpkins, James R., England, 52. Duval, Andrew, Ireland, 53. Espalier, Carlos, TX, 54. Esparza, Gregorio, TX, 55. Evans, Robert, Ireland, 56. Evans, Samuel B., NY, 57. Ewing, James L., TN, 58. Faunterloy, William Keener, KY, 59. Fishbaugh, William, unknown, 60. Flanders, John, MA, 61. Floyd, Dolphin Ward, NC, 62. Forsyth, John Hubbard, NY, 63. Fuentes, Antonio, TX, 64. Fuqua, Galba, AL, 65. Garnett, William, VA, 66. Garrand, James W., LA, 67. Garrett, James Girard, TN, 68. Garvin, John E., unknown, 69. Gaston, John E., KY, 70. George, James, unknown, 71. Goodrich, John C., VA, 72. Grimes, Albert Calvin, GA, 73. Guerrero, José María, TX, 74. Gwynne, James C., England, and 75. Hannum, James, PA.

76. Harris, John, KY, 77. Harrison, Andrew Jackson, TN, 78. Harrison, William B., OH, 79.